

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

David L. Brock and Woojin Lee

Application No.:

10/008,457

Group Art Unit:

3732

Filed:

November 16, 2001

Examiner:

Philogene, Pedro

Confirmation No.: 5179

For:

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated April 18, 2003, for an election of species for searching purposes, Applicant hereby elects Figs. 1-7, 8, 8A-C, 8E-L, 9-28 as the species. Claims readable on the elected species are Claims 1-31. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application or to take other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected species. Applicant does not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected species.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 5/16/03